

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,  
Greater Washington



*St. Thomas  
Mirror*

EDITION : 28

JUNE 2016

Feast Of St. Peter and St. Paul



## Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved,

We can learn the meaning of Christian Communion in our daily life. The bond uniting Christians as individuals and groups with each other and with Jesus Christ, is described as communion. The term is derived from Latin communion (sharing in common).[1] The corresponding term in Greek is κοινωμία, which is often translated as "fellowship". In Christianity, the basic meaning of the term communion is an especially close relationship of Christians, as individuals or as a church, with God and with other Christians. This basic meaning of the word predates its Christian uses. In the New Testament the word is applied, according to the context, to communion, sharing or fellowship with:

- ◆ the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), God (1 John 1:6), the Trinity (1 John 1:3), Jesus, Son of God (1 Corinthians 1:9), his sufferings (Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:13), his future glory (1 Peter 5:1), the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1)
- ◆ the blood and the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), pagan sacrifices and gods (1 Corinthians 10:18-20)
- ◆ \* fellow Christians, their sufferings and the faith (Acts 2:42; Galatians 2:9; 1 John 1:3, 1:7; Hebrews 10:33; Revelation 1:9; Philemon 1:6, 1:17)
- ◆ a source of spiritual favours (Romans 11:17), the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:23), light and darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14)

The Eucharist has been a key theme in the depictions of the Last Supper in Christian art,[3] as in this 16th -century Juan de Juanes painting. By metonymy, the term is used of a group of Christian churches that have this close relationship of communion with each other. An example is the Anglican Communion. If the relationship between the churches is complete, involving fullness of "those bonds of communion – faith, sacraments and pastoral governance – that permit the Faithful to receive the life of grace within the Church",[4] it is called full communion. However, the term "full communion" is frequently used in a broader sense, to refer instead to a relationship between Christian churches that are not united, but have only entered into an arrangement whereby members of each church have certain rights within the other. If a church recognizes that another church, with which it lacks bonds of pastoral governance, shares with it some of the beliefs and essential practices of Christianity, it may speak of "partial communion" between it and the other church.

The communion of saints is the relationship that, according to the belief of Christians, exists between them as people made holy by their link with Christ. That this relationship extends not only to those still in earthly life, but also to those who have gone past death to be "away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8) is a general belief among Christians.[5] Their communion is believed to be "a vital fellowship between all the redeemed, on earth and in the next life, that is based on the common possession of the divine life of grace that comes to us through the risen Christ".[6] Since the word rendered in English as "saints" can mean not only "holy people" but also "holy things", "communion of saints" also applies to the sharing by members of the church

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in the holy things of faith, sacraments (especially the Eucharist), and the other spiritual graces and gifts that they have in common. The term "communion" is applied to sharing in the Eucharist by partaking of the consecrated bread and wine, an action seen as entering into a particularly close relationship with Christ. Sometimes the term is applied not only to this partaking but to the whole of the rite or to the consecrated elements.

May God bless us all

Fr. Dr. Johnson C John

### References:

1. American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language
2. Robert Porter Lynch & Ninon Prozonic Papanicolas: How the Greeks Created the First Age of Innovation.
3. Gospel Figures in Art by Stefano Zuffi 2003 ISBN 978-0-89236-727-6 p. 252.
4. [http://clsa.org/content/files/USCCB\\_memo\\_2006\\_0405.pdf/](http://clsa.org/content/files/USCCB_memo_2006_0405.pdf/).
5. John Henry Hobart, A Companion for the Festivals and Fasts of the Protestant Episcopal Church (Swords, Stanford & Company, 1840), p. 258.
6. Kenneth Baker, Fundamentals of Catholicism (Ignatius Press 1983 ISBN 978-0-89870027-5), p. 149



### Members celebrating birthday

Susan Varghese On 6/2  
Remani Varghese On 6/3  
Baby Daniel On 6/4  
Chinnama Jacob On 6/4  
Sangeeth Mathew On 5/23  
Sheetal Mathew On 6/5  
Mathai Chacko On 6/5  
Bavan Vargese On 6/6  
Rajan Varghese On 6/8  
Neethu George On 6/8  
Bennet Thomas On 6/8  
Thomas Varghese On 6/15  
Merin Bixa Kanneth On 6/17  
Eldo Mathew On 6/18  
Benny Job On 6/18  
Mariamma Abraham On 6/19  
Jai Mehra On 6/21  
Ashley Abraham On 6/26  
Sosamma Joseph On 6/28



### Members celebrating wedding anniversary

6/4; John Eappen and Mary John  
6/6; John Koshy and Siby Mathew  
6/12; Sam G Mattammel and Shiney Sam

### Food Roaster - May – Eusebios

#### June- Gregorios

Lali Koshy (Leader),  
Ealiamma Paul,  
Mary Rajan

### Sunday School Announcements

1. 2015-2016 School year final exam for all grades except for 5th, 8th and 10th grades will be held on June 12th at 12 Noon.
2. Centralized exam for grades 5th, 8th and 10th will be held on June 26th at 12 Noon in our church.
3. Please give names of children planning to participate in assigned competition, talent competition as well as for the coming OVBS, to Nirmala Thomas or Sharena at the earliest.

### Dates to Remember

June-29: Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

### Prayer Meeting

June-18: At the residence of Rajan Yohannan

\*\*\*\* If any of your family member's anniversary/birthday falls on this month and doesn't see under birthday/anniversary column; please login to our church website and update \*\*\*\*

# Worship Schedules

## SERVICE

### 06/05/2016 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Genesis42:18-25,Jeremiah3:1-5,Daniel3:21-23]

Epistle Reading

[Acts13:26-39,Galatians6:10-18,St.John6:35-46]

### 06/12/2016 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.

O.T. Bible Reading : Teena Varghese, Naveen Ninan, Nithya Ninan

[Deuteronomy33:23-29,Psalms15,Isaiah65:8-12]

Epistle Reading

[Acts6:1-7,ICorinthians16:14-22,St.Luke10:1-16]

### 06/19/2016 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Exodus23:14-19,Psalms16,Isaiah40:27-31]

Epistle Reading

[Acts9:10-18,IICorinthians5:14-20,St.Luke9:10-17]

### 06/26/2016 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.

O.T. Bible Reading : Sneha Abraham, Nidhi Mathew, Sara Shibu

[Exodus3:-34-38,Psalms20,Isaiah14:22-27]

Epistle Reading

[Acts1:15-20,ICorinthians8:1-6,St.Matthew15:32-39]